

Amendment After Final Rejection
Application No. 10/576,192
Attorney Docket No. 062412

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 8 are amended to incorporate the features of allowable claims 9, 11, 13 and 15, respectively. Claims 9, 11, 13 and 15 are canceled. Entry of the amendments after final rejection is earnestly solicited as the amendments place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The informality noted by the Examiner has been corrected in the amended claims.

The rejection of claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 16 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by JP '459 has been rendered moot by the above amendment. Furthermore, the rejection of claims 4-6 and 8 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Greby in view of Agari and the rejection of claims 7, 13 and 14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '459 in view of Takagi et al., have also been rendered moot.

The Office Action had indicated that claims 9 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In a telephone conversation with Examiner on January 14, 2008, the undersigned confirmed that claim 12 should have been indicated as claim 13.

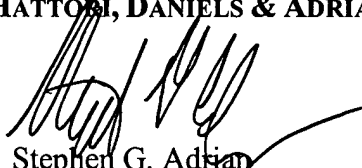
Accordingly, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Adrian", is written over the printed name.

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